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September 9, 1904 1844

COSTA RICA.

Report from Limon, fruit port.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Goodman reports as follows: Week ended August 27, 1904. Estimated population, 4,000; number of deaths, 6; prevailing diseases, malarial fevers; general sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, fair. An order has just been issued by the chief of police requiring all premises in Limon to be freed of grass, rubbish, vessels containing dirty water or decomposing organic matter, and that all water barrels be covered with wire netting, under the penalty of 25 colones for the disobedience of said order.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Aug. 21 22 24 25 26 27	Brewster Alleghany Beacon Alps Miami Belvernon	$\frac{30}{26}$	0 2 0 0 0 0	0 9 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0

Six bills of health for Panaman ports were viséed and 28 passengers for Colon examined and given certificates.

CUBA.

Report from Matanzas—Scarlet fever and enteric fever—Malaria fever on steamship Falco, from Tampico—Unsanitary conditions.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Nuñez reports, August 29, as follows: During the week ended August 27, 1904, bills of health were issued to 5 vessels bound for ports in the United States.

Three cases of malarial fever of the remittent type, which readily yielded to quinine, appeared among the crew of the Norwegian steamship Falco while undergoing precautionary quarantine at this port. This vessel came from Tampico, Mexico, via Cardenas, Cuba, and had been lying at the former place alongside the wharf for several days unloading a cargo of coal, and surrounded by swarms of mosquitoes. The three patients were apyretic and doing well, and no other sickness had occurred on board among the crew up to August 25, when this vessel cleared for New York direct.

Local newspapers have just inaugurated a vigorous campaign against the unsanitary condition of the city, in view of the notable increase in the number of cases of enteric fever, scarlatina, and fevers of malarial origin prevailing throughout town. They call the attention of the municipality as well as that of the general government to this fact, with the purpose of obtaining immediate action to relieve the existing situation before it assumes more alarming proportions. As yet nothing practical has been done.

Fortunately the epidemic of enteric fever, like that of scarlet fever,

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shows a mild type, causing so far a very small rate of mortality, but it is possible for it to attain in the future a higher degree of virulency if the existing sanitary conditions with a tendency for the worse are

not thoroughly attended to in due time.

From now on it will be a difficult matter to ascertain the exact number of cases of enteric fever and scarlatina prevailing, since most local practitioners fail to report them to the health officer, as has been customary heretofore. No penalty, to my knowledge, has been imposed on the physicians who have thus failed to comply with the sanitary regulations. This neglect will necessarily lead to the nonobservance of the usual prophylactic measures recommended in such cases, with all its dangerous consequences.

Report from Santiago—Disinfection of steamship Frieda, from Tampico.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Wilson reports, August 23 and 25, as follows:

During the week ended August 20, 1904, bills of health were issued to 2 vessels bound for the United States.

No quarantinable disease has been reported.

The British steamship Frieda arrived August 19 with the following history: Was at Tampico twelve days at wharf; crew went ashore; one man had fever there, but was cured before leaving. There were a great many mosquitoes; sailed from Tampico August 13; on the third day out one man was taken sick with fever and headache; on arriving at Santiago, three days later, he was still sick. As the steamer came from an infected port it was quarantined and the man was removed to the lazaretto. The steamer, which came in ballast, was disinfected. The committee on contagious diseases had the man under observation two days and then declared the case was not yellow fever. A microscopical examination of the blood was made and the malarial parasite was found. The patient has not been jaundiced; has not had albumin in the urine; the pulse has risen and fallen in proportion to the fever.

Three other members of the crew have been sick since arriving at Santiago. One had high fever for a few hours, but was well and returned to work the next morning. The other two had fever, begin-

ning with a chill and headache.

The vessel, which is still in quarantine, when released will go to Daiquiri to load iron ore for a port in the United States. These vessels usually go to Baltimore or Philadelphia.

Steamship Frieds released from quarantine.

August 25, 1904.

The British steamship *Frieda*, of which I wrote an account on August 23, was released from quarantine this morning and left about 12 m. for Baltimore via Daiquiri. The captain took all his crew and they were apparently well.

The vessel will leave Daiquiri the evening of August 26 or the

morning of the 27th.